

REMARKS

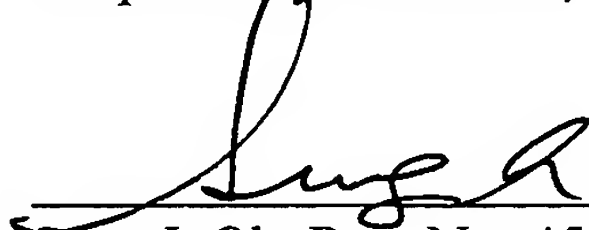
I. Preliminary Remarks

Claim 17 has been rejected as being anticipated by either Muhler (U.S. Patent No. 3,613,143) or Masterman (U.S. Patent No. 5,722,106). Claims 11 and 13 have been rejected as being obvious over Muhler, in view of JP63150011. Claims 11, 13, and 15 have been rejected as being obvious over Masterman, in view of JP63150011. The office action, however, allowed claims 2-6; and claims 12, 14, 16, 18, and 19 were objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, claims 12, 14, and 16 have been cancelled, and their limitations have been added to their respective independent claims 11, 13, and 15 to place the independent claims 11, 13, and 15 in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 18 and 19, they have been amended to include the limitation of their base claim 17 to place claims 18 and 19 in condition for allowance. As such, the applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance.

The provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection is noted. Accordingly, a Terminal Disclaimer is filed along with this amendment to overcome the rejection.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1853. Should such additional fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

Respectfully submitted,



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